

MEDICAL MARIJUANA MONTANA BOARD OF PHARMACY WHITE PAPER

Montana Pharmacy Association Adopts Resolution Opposing Distribution of Medical Marijuana

WHEREAS, Marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 drug under the Federal Controlled Substance Act (CSA) since there is a high potential for abuse and there is currently no FDA approved or accepted medical use; and
WHEREAS, the federal CSA criminalizes the acts of prescribing, dispensing, and possessing marijuana including pharmacies; and,
WHEREAS, while current Montana Law does allow individuals to possess limited amounts of marijuana related to the patient's medical condition the current laws do not regulate that quality or potency of the marijuana; and,
WHEREAS, current Montana Laws represent a political response to patients seeking relief from various symptoms they do not ensure the advancement of effective treatment;
BE IT RESOLVED, that MPA supports the idea that only scientific research can tell when marijuana provides medicinal benefits, if there are equally effective alternatives, what are the appropriate dosing levels for various conditions, measure the risks of long-term side effects with prolonged use, as well as the quality and purity of the marijuana; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until medical marijuana distribution is based on science the Montana Pharmacy Association does not support the involvement of our profession in the dispensing of this drug.



Press Room

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For Immediate Release: January 21st, 2010

California Supreme Court Strikes Limits for Medical Marijuana Patients

Exemption from arrest and prosecution upheld for state-issued ID cardholders

San Francisco, CA -- The California Supreme Court issued a unanimous published decision today in *People v. Kelly*, striking down what it considered unconstitutional legislative limits on how much medical marijuana patients can possess and cultivate.

Today's decision also affirms protection from arrest and prosecution for patients who both possess a state-issued identification card and comply with state or local personal use guidelines.



"The California Supreme Court did the right thing by abolishing limits on medical marijuana possession and cultivation," said Joe Elford, Chief Counsel with American for Safe Access, the country's largest medical marijuana advocacy group. "At the same time, the Court may have left too much discretion to law enforcement in deciding what are reasonable amounts of medicine for patients to possess and cultivate."

Although the court affirmed that qualified patients and their primary caregivers retain "all the rights afforded by the CUA [Compassionate Use Act of 1996]," law enforcement can still arrest and prosecute if probable cause exists. In keeping with the CUA, qualified patients and their primary caregivers will still have an affirmative defense in court. Advocates remain concerned that without guidance on personal use amounts, police may abuse their discretion to arrest patients who are in compliance with the law.

The defendant, Patrick Kelly, is a qualified medical marijuana patient treating a number of conditions, including hepatitis C, chronic back pain, and cirrhosis. Kelly was arrested in October of 2005 for possessing 12 ounces and cultivating 7 plants at his home in Lakewood, California. Kelly was convicted a year later by a jury, which concluded that he had exceeded the state-imposed "limits" of 8 ounces of dried medical marijuana and six mature plants. California's Second Appellate District Court overturned Kelly's conviction on the grounds that legislatively-imposed limits on possession and cultivation of medical marijuana are an unconstitutional restriction to a voter-approved initiative (Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996).

Both parties in the case, Kelly and the State Attorney General, agreed that medical marijuana limits should be abolished as unconstitutional. Both parties also opposed the


appellate court's invalidation of the entire statute, Health & Safety Code Section 11362.77, which protects ID cardholders from arrest and prosecution if they are in compliance with local or state guidelines.

Further Information:

California Supreme Court decision:


http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org/downloads/Kelly_Ruling.pdf

Medical Marijuana In Colorado: Judge Voids Board Of Health Decision

DAN ELLIOTT | 11/10/09 05:01 PM | 



What's Your Reaction?

 DENVER — A judge overturned tight restrictions Tuesday on Colorado medical marijuana providers, saying state health officials had ignored the needs of patients and violated open meetings laws while imposing the rules.

The ruling by Denver District Judge Larry Naves means medical marijuana providers can continue supplying the drug to registered users without having to provide any other care, as a state Board of Health vote last week would have required.

It was another setback for health officials struggling to regulate Colorado's growing medical marijuana industry, which sprang up after voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2000.

Colorado now has at least 11,000 people registered with the state as medical marijuana users.

Naves was sharply critical of the Board of Health and at times appeared impatient with arguments by Anne Holton, a first assistant attorney general representing the board.

"Did this board ever think about the impact on the health of people like these people here?" he asked, referring to a medical marijuana user and provider in the courtroom who had challenged the new requirements.

Holton said the board was only trying to clarify restrictions for users and providers alike, and the action was only temporary while officials settled on long-term requirements.

"It's not temporary if you're trying to down 30 pills," Naves retorted, referring to testimony by a patient in an older, related case who said he can't keep his numerous medications down without marijuana.

The latest skirmish over regulation began in August, when the health board decided anyone who supplies marijuana to a registered user meets the criteria to be an authorized caregiver.

ADVERTISEMENT

Last month, however, the state Court of Appeals ruled in a criminal case that a woman convicted of marijuana charges didn't qualify as a caregiver because she provided only the drug and no other health services, as some other states require.

The Board of Health then suspended its August decision and temporarily accepted the stricter requirements set by the Court of Appeals.

Attorney Richard Corry asked Naves to stop the move, saying the board didn't give enough public notice of the meeting.

Corry also argued that the Court of Appeals judges said their ruling applied only to the criminal case.

Naves agreed, saying the court ruling didn't apply to the state's requirements. He also ruled the board didn't give enough public notice to comply with state law.

Holton didn't know if the state would appeal.

The Board of Health previously scheduled a Dec. 15 meeting on the same issue.

Report Corrections

Appeals Court Revives Marijuana Debate

Posted: Wednesday, November 24, 2010 5:04 pm Updated: 12:42 pm, Wed Dec 1, 2010.

By Jonathan Van Dyke
Staff Writer

A lawsuit against the city's medical marijuana ordinance gained some traction last Wednesday with a ruling from the California Second Appellate District Court.

The appeal ruling on *Pack et al. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County et al.* asks that all parties appear in court on Feb. 8 to "show cause" why relief requested from the law should or shouldn't be granted.

The plaintiff, Ryan Pack, had filed a lawsuit against the original Long Beach ordinance regulating medical marijuana collectives seeking an injunction because the local ordinance went against federal and state constitutional law (including the state voter approved constitutional amendment that legalized use of medical marijuana). But the Superior Court ruling said there was no basis for the suit. The appellate court overturned that ruling.

"It's important to note that this is a process order," City Attorney Robert Shannon said. "There are no decisions on merit. Any speculation where it might end up is just that.

"They stayed it in order to allow the parties to address one issue — the issue of federal preemption."

The sale and possession of marijuana is illegal federally. California law allows the possession of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The lawsuit's challenge lies with whether the city of Long Beach has the right to regulate a substance that the federal government says is illegal.

"(This is asking) can a state, or local entity in this case, enact laws regulating marijuana, when, in fact, marijuana is criminalized federally," Shannon said. "(The ruling) appears to raise that issue."

A representative for attorney Matthew Pappas said the office was excited and pleased with the ruling — Pappas could not be reached for comment.

Shannon said he wanted to emphasize that the current medical marijuana ordinance, which was passed earlier this year by the City Council, was not nullified by this latest ruling.

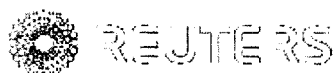
"It does not stay the enforcement of the ordinance," he said.

Last week, the City Council voted to impose further restrictions on the ordinance it had approved in April. That could change depending on how the council views this latest development, Shannon said.

"The City Council could say, 'Let's see what the court decides,'" he added. "They could do that, but they're not required to do that."

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One cannabis joint as bad as five cigarettes: study

Tue, Jul 31 2007

LONDON (Reuters) - Smoking one cannabis joint is as harmful to a person's lungs as having up to five cigarettes, according to research published on Tuesday.

Those who smoked cannabis damaged both the lungs' small fine airways, used for transporting oxygen, and the large airways, which blocked air flow, the researchers said.

It meant cannabis smokers complained of wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness, the study by experts at the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand found.

The researchers tested 339 people — those who smoked only cannabis, those who smoked tobacco, those who smoked both and non-smokers.

The study found only those who smoked tobacco suffered from the crippling lung disease emphysema, but cannabis use stopped the lungs working properly.

"The extent of this damage was directly related to the number of joints smoked, with higher consumption linked to greater incapacity," said the authors of the report published in the medical journal *Thorax*.

"The effect on the lungs of each joint was equivalent to smoking between 2.5 and five cigarettes in one go."

The British government is considering whether cannabis should be reclassified as a more serious drug because of the dangers associated with stronger strains.

"The danger cannabis poses to respiratory health is consistently being overlooked," said Helena Shovelton, Chief Executive of the British Lung Foundation.

→ "Smoking a joint is more harmful to the lungs than smoking a cigarette and we have just banned people from doing that in public places because of the health risks."

Last week British researchers said using marijuana increased the risk of developing a psychotic illness such as schizophrenia.



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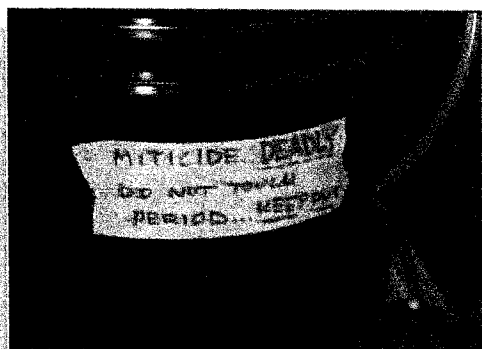


OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

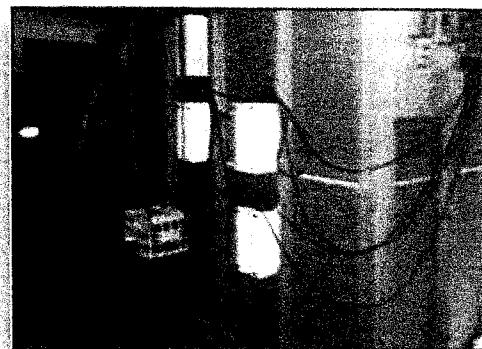
The Impact of Medical Marijuana in Oregon



Illegal guns and marijuana seized. The suspect was allowed to select and keep the plants that were in compliance with Oregon Medical Marijuana Program laws.



Found in Oregon Medical Marijuana Program grow where children lived in the home. This was labeled by the suspect.



Wiring observed at marijuana grow.

When Oregonians passed the Oregon Medical Marijuana Laws over 10 years ago, I doubt many could even imagine the impact to our state. First of all, I believe the majority of Oregonians are good hearted people and passed the initial Oregon Medical Marijuana laws with good intentions. They saw the ads of sick and dying patients and were willing to do anything to help an ailing person. However, the majority of patients for whom the program was intended is not who is using/abusing the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program.

A main selling point of the program was to help patients who had cancer and were sick from chemotherapy. The reality is that very few patients in the OMMP have cancer. Out of the over 26,000 patients in the program less than 1200 are in the program due to cancer. That is less than 4% (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ommp/data.shtml>).

- The most common condition patients in the medical marijuana program receive recommendations for is "chronic pain". Over 23,000 patients in the program utilize cannabis for purported pain. With pain being very subjective and difficult to gauge, it opens the plan for a large amount of abuse just with this piece.
- The second issue that is commonly seen is most traditional patients who take medication for pain ask their physician how long they have to take the medication. With medical marijuana patients, most want to be involved in the program for the rest of their lives.

Of the over 26,000 patients currently in Oregon, many have been previously arrested or involved in the manufacture, delivery and possession of controlled substances. Many of the "patients" law enforcement have come in contact with, are admitted long time cannabis users/abusers, many of which are utilizing the program to legitimize their drug use, addiction and sales.

The next major problem with the program is that there is little oversight. There are a few people at the Department of Human Services (DHS) who diligently try to manage the paperwork involved in the program. There is no oversight after that. There is not a single legitimate drug manufacturer in the United States who does not have to have their factories/manufacture sites kept in regulation with oversight by the FDA. The OMMP has no such oversight. Once a card is issued there is no one to inspect the grow sites to make sure the cardholders are in compliance. Law Enforcement has no authority to enter into grow sites and make sure they are in compliance. This is the only drug manufacturing system in the United States solely on the "honor system".

Many of these grow sites are set up in garages, apartments, attics, and homes. The people setting up these grows will run a series of wiring for the lights, ventilation, and watering timers. The growers are not required to obtain county or city permits or have their grow sites inspected for safety. As a result, many fires have occurred due to indoor marijuana grows where the culprit has been over heated lights and poor wiring. When law enforcement officials receive calls of clandestine marijuana grows from neighbors or school staff, we will respond. However, there is nothing that gives us the authority to ensure it is in compliance with the program or safe to the children who live there. More often than not, the cardholder will not allow an inspection of the site to ensure it is safe and in compliance.

A common claim is "drugs are a victimless crime." In dealing with drugs and drug abuse

MEDICAL MARIJUANA IN OREGON

at any level it is clear this is not true.

- First of all drug rip-offs are all too common. Many reported "takeover" robberies in residences are drug rip offs, many of which are marijuana related. We see people shooting people to steal their drugs and/or drug proceeds.
- Property owners are common victims as well. As with meth labs in the past, when a renter moves out and leaves the remnants of a large marijuana grow behind, the owner is frequently left with a huge clean-up cost. This is partly due to the fact that these grows require a greenhouse type environment and are kept humid where dangerous mold spores thrive. Other costs include correcting of the wiring, water damage, soil left in residence, and deadly pesticide disposal.



Illegal guns and marijuana seized.

The last, but most important victims, are the children. Often the drugs and chemicals are left in reach of kids

residing in many of these homes and as with any drug use, homes frequently have parents lying around "stoned" leaving kids to fend for themselves. Children's respirations are faster than adults, thus they potentially take in more of this secondhand smoke affecting their developing bodies. There are no regulations restricting the use of this substance around children.

The amounts allowed also lend to abuse. A single patient can have 24 plants and 1½ pounds of marijuana. A card holder can grow for multiple "patients". With just four patients for a grower, they can legally have almost 100 plants and 6 pounds of dried marijuana. Most indoor growers will cycle their plants so they can continually harvest several pounds of weed every few months.

The marijuana of today is not the marijuana of the 60's or 70's. Today's hybrid plants commonly produce 3 to 4 times the THC levels of plants in the past. With the inconsistency of plants and production, the user never knows what dose or level they are getting. This is just one of the many reasons marijuana is a poor choice of medicine.

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Law is also wide open for too much abuse.

- The ability of law enforcement to ensure the safety of neighbors and children is difficult.
- The amount of marijuana allowed to be produced is excessive.
- There are no quality checks of the product being produced.
- The doctor is not able to monitor the actual dose a patient is administered.
- Department of Human Services records indicate that 1 doctor has recommended 35% of all the medical marijuana cards issued in Oregon.

Due to these flaws and many others, we as law enforcement have a responsibility to make changes to the program to ensure the safety of our communities and all of our citizens.

The original Medical Marijuana bill we were asked to support contained many hidden flaws, some of which have produced serious unintended consequences. Members of the law enforcement community are statutorily and duty bound to ensure the safety and the security of our communities. Until stricter regulations and oversight on the medical marijuana program can be guaranteed and implemented, including adequate funding, the current medical marijuana law should be repealed.

Written by Sgt. John Koch
Westside Interagency Narcotics Team
Washington County Sheriff's Office

From:
First Name: Kirk
Last Name: Eastman
esign@middrivers.com

City
Lewistown

Zip Code
59457

Put a personal note here:

I came from the marijuana using generation of the 60's. I know what it does. It robs ambition, makes lazy people, and stunts one's intelligence. We cannot afford the societal repercussions of this quasi-legal illicit drug. If these grass stores are allowed in our towns and neighborhoods, they will ruin kids, cause crime, and run down property values. Is this what we want for our state? Please vote to repeal this ill-advised law.

From:
First Name: Karen
Last Name: DeVries
k.devries@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code
406-549-7877

City
Missoula

Zip Code
59801

Put a personal note here:

Please repeal this medical marijuana thing. Put it in the hands of those who will use it for medical purposes responsibly. If you don't it will continue to work havoc on our society, on families, etc. Thanks for thinking it through and the ramifications of allowing it to continue.

From:
First Name: Dawn
Last Name: Schnur
dms@landmarkworship.org

Phone w/ Area Code
406-253-9624

City
Kalispell

Zip Code
59904

Put a personal note here:

Please stop this mess, before it gets any worse! "Medical marijuana" is a joke. Let's call it what it is, "legalized marijuana" and repeal it before it goes too far. I'm not for legalized marijuana, but even that would put age limits and driving limits and control over how close it could be sold near schools and churches. PLEASE REPEAL THIS LAW. THANK YOU.

From:
First Name: Janice
Last Name: Tate
janurset@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-251-2238

City
Missoula

Zip Code
59803

Put a personal note here:

Please stop the easy access of marijuana! Thanks

First Name: Lynn
Last Name: Sundelius
sundelius@centurytel.net

Phone w/ Area Code
4067566270

City
Kalispell

Zip Code
59901

Put a personal note here:

I am a CASA volunteer and was recently in court waiting for my case to be called when a youth case came before the judge. The young man in question pled guilty to several misdeeds accomplished while under the influence of legally obtained marijuana. It is mind blowing to me that a 16 year old was able to get a medical marijuana card! Part of his sentence from the judge was to lose the card, but how many more like him are there out there? I sincerely believe that the voters had no intention of this when the law was passed and absolutely no concept of the lack of boundaries in the law.

From:
First Name: A
Last Name: Kellogg
a.kellogg@yahoo.com

City
Anaconda

Zip Code
59711

Put a personal note here:

Please show you care about the people and children of Montana by completely repealing the marijauna use laws in the state. There are many good reasons this drug was outlawed in the past and those reasons are still valid today. Show us you have the common sense of the people of your community and are not swayed by the "big talking" lobbies. Show us that you listen to the people who voted. Repeal this marijauna mess!

From:
First Name: James
Last Name: Tilley
tilleyjim@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
4068504406

City
Billings

Zip Code
59105

Put a personal note here:

It is time to fix the mistakes of the past. Please repeal this medical marijuana and end this quagmire that we have mired ourselves in.
Thank You

From:
First Name: Kristen
Last Name: Heck
kristen@lcstaffing.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-752-0191

Zip Code
59901

Put a personal note here:

If you could experience the numbers of young people we see in our place of business looking for a job and showing us their medical marijuana card, you would be very alarmed. These job applicants are missing out on opportunities because that cannot pass a pre-employment drug test (nor should they). These people will be left behind when they should be learning to become mature, hard working, contributing members of our communities. Everywhere we look there are billboards promoting "caregivers" and pot shops on every corner. This is shocking and terrible for our community.

First Name: Megan
Last Name: Shimamoto
megshimamoto@hotmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-534-4175

City
Billings

Zip Code
59105

Put a personal note here:
Please repeal Medical Marijuana !!

First Name: Steve
Last Name: Grover
steve@sparrowgroupllc.com

City
Missoula

Zip Code
59803

Put a personal note here:
I have had two of my children in high school since the "medical marijuana bill passed. Fortunately my children have made good choices so far, but I have personally seen several of their friends either start or expand their use of "pot" since this law was passed. They tell me it is easier to get than beer! Marijuana may have appropriate medical uses, but becoming the "drug of choice" for high school (and younger) students because it is so easy to obtain. Please repeal this law!

First Name: Larry
Last Name: Reinlasoder
elrock@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code
(406) 861-7311

City
Billings

Zip Code
59102

Put a personal note here:

I favor repeal of the medical marihuana bill. I feel this initiative was misrepresented to the voters of Montana and has made us the laughing stock of the nation.

From:
First Name: Tari
Last Name: Burt
tariburt@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-671-3135

City
Billings

Zip Code
59102

Put a personal note here:

I work with youth in our community as a mentor, please take this hazard away! The kids have trouble enough just being teens, they don't need added temptations with ruinous results. Thank you in advance for doing the right thing!

First Name: Mr. and Mrs.
Last Name: Kellogg
a.kellogg@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-563-3607

City
Anaconda

Zip Code
59711

Put a personal note here:

Please show you care about the people and children of Anaconda and Montana by completely repealing the marijauna use laws in the state. There are many good reasons this drug is outlawed in the past and those reasons are still valid today. Show us you have the common sense of the people of your community and are not swayed by the "big talking" lobbyist. Show us that you listen to the people who voted. Repeal this marijauna mess!

First Name: Nancy
Last Name: German
nell.german@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406 251-4933

City
Missoula
Zip Code
59801

Put a personal note here:

I strongly support the repeal of the medical marijuana program in Montana. I am concerned about lack of quality control of the growth and distribution of "medical" marijuana.

I would like to urge our legislature to research the crime directly associated with the legalization of marijuana. On the surface, It makes sense that crime would decrease, since using marijuana is no longer a crime. Yet what about crime that is committed due to driving or acting under the influence of marijuana? Or those who are financially gaining protecting their assets?

Thank you for your service to this great state and for your consideration.

Nancy German

From:
First Name: Brent
Last Name: Gyuricza
brent@citylifemt.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-531-0753

City
Missoula

Zip Code
59804

Put a personal note here:

As the Executive Director of one of Missoula's largest not for profit youth agencies I can confidently say the following: I have never seen something (medical marijuana legislation) so quickly undermine programing and anti drug culture as this. The number of great athletes and top students who have stopped participating in sports or seen grades slide is staggering. HIDA number show that teen drug possession and distribution charges tripled in Missoula from 2009 to 2010. The last two years had teens talking about marijuana being legal. If marijuana is a gateway drug it might also explain why other drugs such as mushroom usage is up. HIDA had a 1,000% increase in mushroom confiscation in 2010. We need to send a clear message to teens that marijuana is not medicine and will not help them in fulfilling their dreams.

From:
First Name: Jean
Last Name: Moran
jmoran@bcbsmt.com
Phone w/ Area Code
406-225-4374

City
Boulder
Zip Code
59632

Put a personal note here:

Please support HB161!

I will be voting for the legislators who listen to what the people of Montana want.

Thank you!

From:

First Name: Jody

Last Name: Lamp

jody@lampprandmarketing.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-698-9675

City

Billings

Zip Code

59105

Put a personal note here:

I support the repeal of the existing medical marijuana program in Montana. It's disgusting that I can drive around town and see these medical marijuana places on nearly every busy street and corner. If I have to see my doctor every six months just to get my \$4 thyroid medication filled monthly and you have to show your ID to the Wal-Mart pharmacists to get a \$2.67 box of Sudafed, then you should HAVE to be a LICENSED PHARMACISTS with a the proper education and degree to dispense marijuana!!

First Name: Tom

Last Name: Gauthier

tgauthier@gardiner.org

Phone w/ Area Code

406-223-2582

City

Gardiner

Zip Code

59030

Put a personal note here:

When you loosen the reins, the horse will run. Medical marijuana loosens the reins and is open to too much abuse.

From:
First Name: Daniel
Last Name: Nagel
dann@cmamissoula.com
Phone w/ Area Code
4062513983

City
MT

Zip Code
59803

Put a personal note here:

Since medicinal marijuana was legalized related crime is regularly in the Missoulian. Why? I have friends who completed seven years of pharmacy school at the University of Montana and it doesn't even take a high school diploma to dispense medical marijuana. Why? One of the medical marijuana dispensaries here in Missoula is attached to "Patty's Smoke Shop". Why?

"Medicinal marijuana" is clearly a 'smoke screen' to legitimize the use and distribution of a dangerous drug.

Let's repeal the law!

First Name: Judy
Last Name: Albert
judyalbert@bresnan.net

City
Missoula

Zip Code
59803

Put a personal note here:

This is out of control.....

First Name: Russell
Last Name: Ostwalt
glock23nspiel@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
(406) 262-4407

City
Billings

Zip Code
59102

Put a personal note here:

I am a retired police officer from the state of Montana and currently working as a Probation and Parole Officer. I have seen VERY few people that would benefit from medical marijuana. Most of the people I supervise that have the marijuana card are young with "chronic pain" or they are on probation or parole for a DRUG CHARGE or both!

First Name: Cassandra
Last Name: Meixner
chipzip37@yahoo.com

City
Butte

Zip Code
59701

Put a personal note here:

I voted so that people with a disease that was killing them. Not 17 year olds who have hurt backs or friends of caregivers who know the right things to say to get a card. I didn't vote for doctors to give prescriptions over teleconferences with no follow up, or for vans to drive around offering green cards. The ease at which people access these cards makes it so that it might as well be legal for everyone. Complaining of a pain or illness and poof here's your medication. There are no limits on the number of caregivers, no limits on the amount of stores, and no limits as to who can provide what. This is not at all what I voted for and has gotten so far out of hand that it makes me fear for my community. This was not put into place well, governed well, and needs strict enforceable changes before I will agree to this anymore.

From:

First Name: Wesley

Last Name: Smith

wes_220@hotmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-208-9238

City

Billings

Zip Code

59101

Put a personal note here:

Reform is not an option. Repeal the Law until there is scientific proof that marijuana will not harm our children. The only reason anyone would reform the law is because of the amount of money that can be made by the state. Place our health and welfare before the almighty dollar.

From:

First Name: Earl

Last Name: Norwood

eearl32@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code

4063252015

City

Billings

Zip Code

59106

Put a personal note here:

Please, repeal the current marijuana law.

From:
First Name: Dale
Last Name: Blom
daletblom@msn.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-628-7613

City
Laurel

Zip Code
59044

Put a personal note here:
Please vote to repeal the existing medical marijuana bill in Montana.
It is a mess and is creating an even bigger one.

First Name: Sean
Last Name: Brady
seansbusiness@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-670-1282
City
Billings

Zip Code
59106

Put a personal note here:
Dear Legislator,
I see this opportunity to repeal the current laws surrounding medical marijuana in Montana as a chance to take our state back and make it the safe family environment it was just a few months ago. Since this situation has been brought to my attention I have spoken to many in law enforcement, the medical field and general public at large who were completely unaware of the ramifications of the decision to vote for the original medical marijuana bill. Please consider and support the opportunity to vote again in the future for a safer more controlled approach to helping those who may really need the type of assistance this drug offers instead of the current law which allows anyone who has a complaint of any sort to get their hands on it and unknowingly ruin theirs and many others futures by abusing it. Thanks for all you do for our state. Sean Brady.

From:
First Name: Wendy
Last Name: Chelini
mwchelini@hotmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-251-4893
City
Missoula
Zip Code
59803

Put a personal note here:
Please note that I am in favor of repealing the medical marijuana program in Montana. Thank you for your work on our behalf!

Sincerely,
Wendy Chelini

From:
First Name: JOHN
Last Name: RASMUSSEN
river_pines@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code
406-493-0731

City
missoula

Zip Code
59804

Put a personal note here:
The abuses are already clear. If this is allowed to stand it will validate the the abuses/abusers and will then worsen. If this stands, what will become "legal" next? What abomination of society will next be addressed for state sanction?

It isn't only those in D.C. who are being watched and judged.

From:
First Name: Becky
Last Name: Shepard
rbshepard@3riversdbs.net
City
Lewistown
Zip Code
59457

Put a personal note here:

Bad law for everyone. It is way out of hand and the crime rate will only get worse because of it. I know way too many people over the years who have wasted their lives using and abusing marijuana. Repeal it. We dont need it.

From:
First Name: Janice
Last Name: Kienas
kienasj@centurytel.net

Phone w/ Area Code
406-752-8281
City
Kalispell

Zip Code
59901

Put a personal note here:

Please vote to repeal the medical marijuana law that is presently on the books. It promotes much illegal trafficking and selling of this substance. It adds to the dangers on our highways and workplaces by having impaired people driving and making poor decisions where it comes to safety for themselves and others. It is not really a necessary drug for the treatment of pain and "sufferings"too many people are getting medical cards by using "tricky" methods (which in itself seems to be turning into a profitable "sideline" business.)

Let's just put a HALT to the whole business. VOTE TO REPEAL THIS LAW.4
WS

I request that the Montana Legislature repeal the medical marijuana act. It is a travesty that this has become a state where marijuana can be so easily obtained in hundreds of shops in the state.

John Bradford
5203 Arnica RD
Missoula, MT 59803

From:
First Name: Pam
Last Name: Christianson
mtmom@live.com

Put a personal note here:

Dear Legislators - After watching the hearing on HB 168, it is obvious that our state law enforcement agencies are at a loss with the marijuana act. It has cost our state in huge ways, financially and socially. The compassionate people of MT voted it in for the benefit of a few, not over 27,000 people. We were duped by outside sources and money. It is a lawless that is beyond being fixed. I ask that you repeal it with the passage of HB 161. Thank you.

First Name: Melanee
Last Name: Emmett
memmett@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code
406 321-0820

City
Billings

Zip Code
50105

Put a personal note here:

I am strongly against medical marijuana and request that this bill be passed. I supervise felony offenders and have had to walk out of grow operations where they are allowed to grow their own marijuana. That is not the kind of state I want to live in. If the program had been limited to valid issues, I would have felt better about it. But that is not what it is being used for. The 20-30 year olds are the highest population possessing cards. Considering what it does to your brain, I am sad about the future that will bring down the road to Montanan's. Please consider passing this bill.

From:
First Name: william
Last Name: kampfer
bill.kampfer@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-690-0948

City
absarokee

Zip Code
59001

Put a personal note here:
We have to take back the values this country and state were founded on. This is an illegal drug and must stay that way.

From:
First Name: Kathy
Last Name: Sangray
camerahappy@bresnan.net

City
Havre

Zip Code
59501

Put a personal note here:
The Medical Marijuana Law that was passed was not what I anticipated. What we voted for and what we got are two different things. I urge you to repeal the Medical Marijuana law.

First Name: Joshua
Last Name: Melia
joshmelia@msn.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-652-8913

City
Billings

Zip Code
59102

Put a personal note here:

I am strongly opposed to the current medical marijuana laws that have been put in place. Getting a "medical card" for marijuana use is a joke, for the most part the people that have them are pot heads and are now able to thumb their nose at authority. I am disgusted with the job the administrators of this program are doing. Anyone claiming to have some kind of pain, or stress can obtain a medical card, this is not the kind of environment I want to be apart of or raise my family in for that matter. I am a voter, please do your job and pass this bill, you work for us, and this is not what Montanan's want.

First Name: Josh
Last Name: Nichols
jnichols777@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-570-5664

City
Billings

Zip Code
59101

Put a personal note here:

The Montana marijuana program is a disgrace to the state, her citizens, and the constituents you policy-makers represent. Please find the dignity to understand this legislation should be repealed and restore some common sense to the writings of our state law.

From:
First Name: Aidan
Last Name: Guthridge
guthridge4@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code
406-861-5944

City
Billings

Zip Code
59106

Put a personal note here:
Until the federal government legalizes pot the state of MT should ban it. It's dangerous, addictive and is being abused. We currently have more control over much less dangerous substances like codeine or tramadol....OR PSEUDOEPHEDRINE for that matter. Send the right message to my children and repeal it!

From:
First Name: Michelle
Last Name: Ash-Weiss
mmouse621@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code
4066529359

City
Billings

Zip Code
59102

Put a personal note here:
Please repeal the medical marijuana law in Montana.

First Name: Nancy
Last Name: Rohde
peppybelle57@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-697-3686

City
Billings

Zip Code
59105

Put a personal note here:

Please REPEAL - I am a prosecutor and have already seen the ill effects of this Act. Please don't let it go any further!

Thank you

From:
First Name: Delores
Last Name: Rogers
roselvr@blackfoot.net

Phone w/ Area Code
406 644 2288

City
Charlo

Zip Code
59824

Put a personal note here:

We do not need marijuana the way it is now,,,,look at the crime that has resulted from just the short time this has been allowed

First Name: Justin
Last Name: McKerrow
jamcke@centurylink.net

City
Kalispell

Zip Code
59901

Put a personal note here:

Thank you for looking at repealing the medical marijuana program. In Kalispell, there has been an abuse of this law and the number of places to buy marijuana is mind blowing (literally). Please repeal this law. I'm not opposed to pharmacies distributing small quantities to those who the original law was designed to help, but make it specific.

Thank you,
Justin McKerrow

First Name: Brian
Last Name: O'Neil
brianoneil.mt@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-670-5858

City
Billings

Zip Code
59106

Put a personal note here:

As a law enforcement officer I can state without reservation that the medical marijuana laws are abused with impunity. While the spirit of the law might be to assist those with legitimate medical needs, the plain fact is that anyone with a sinus headache can obtain a medical marijuana card and proliferate the illegal use of this drug.

First Name: Shelly
Last Name: Sharbono
sssharbono@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-644-3175

City
Charlo

Zip Code
59824

Put a personal note here:
Stand up for the future of our children.

From:

First Name: Dawn

Last Name: Stahl

dstahl@hospitalitymints.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-628-2909

City

Laurel

Zip Code

59044

Put a personal note here:

Please repeal this! I have members in my family who 'lied' to a Dr. to get their Green Card - & the Dr. NEVER questioned them or gave an exam!, Just took the \$150.00 and the Grower supplys them! This is crazy...this law is NOT for the sick & dying.....I have seen families DESTROYED this last year because of this...

From:

First Name: JEFFREY

Last Name: LAVOI

jefflavoil@itstriangle.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-395-4680

City

Havre

Zip Code

59501

Put a personal note here:

I'm sorry I voted for the medical marijuana law. I never envisioned it would be implemented as it was. I see now how it turned out and strongly agree it should be repealed. I presently serve as Hill County Commissioner and need your help to put this cat back in the bag. Thanks.

From:

First Name: Sharmon

Last Name: Brougham

smbrougham@aol.com

Phone w/ Area Code

(406) 281-7519

City

Billings

Zip Code

MT

Put a personal note here:

This is not what Montana voted for. Please repeal the law and do the right thing for our communities and more important, our children. Look at the history in Colorado. Many medical marijuana growers made a million dollars initially before Colorado saw a problem. Let's get this corrected now to make our communities a safe place for all of our citizens.

First Name: Kathleen

Last Name: Ryan

k_ryan@bresnan.net

City

Havre

Zip Code

59501

Put a personal note here:

Having worked in the medical and mental health fields, I am most definitely for repealing the Medical Marijuana program in MT. It appears that in several instances, those involved have or have had addiction issues. I am greatly concerned at how medical professionals determine who may need medical marijuana. When an individual is already on multiple prescription meds for pain and other issues, why are they in need of marijuana too? My perspective is one of watching - and living in - a community that has "blossomed" with marijuana! I have a tendency to hold the medical profession responsible.

From:

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Carpenter

cindy.carpenter@nfs.stoneriver.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-756-8656

City

Kalispell

Zip Code

59901

Put a personal note here:

I support the repeal of the Medical Marijuana program. Seems like everyone has a card these days and as an employer, I feel very restricted in how I can handle that with the staff and our company. I don't feel it sends the right message to prospective and talented employees.

Let's get rid of it!

From:

First Name: Dale

Last Name: Lewis

pastor@bitterrootvalleycalvarychapel.com

Phone w/ Area Code

4063633431

City

Hamilton

Zip Code

59840

Put a personal note here:

I urge you to repeal the existing so called "medical marijuana" law. It is causing undo stress on law enforcement as well as endangering the citizens of this great state. The abuse of the existing law has already caused deaths and untold addictions which we all are paying for. Don't allow addicts and drug pushers to ruin the quality of life in Montana, please repeal this law. Thank you,

Pastor Dale Lewis

Bitterroot Valley Calvary Chapel

From:

First Name: Megan

Last Name: DeJong

2meadowlarks@bridgemail.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-642-6858

City

Victor

Zip Code

59875

Put a personal note here:

Montana is a state where we enjoy the wholesome outdoors and that is what we want to be known for, not for becoming a magnet for marijuana users.

We are concerned for the well being of our citizens and especially our children because of the free flowing availability of marijuana. Please help us to return Montana to its wholesome roots and repeal the Medical Marijuana law by supporting HB161

From:

First Name: Steve

Last Name: Stanford

sstanford@mt.gov

Phone w/ Area Code

406/ 294-9609

City

Billings

Zip Code

59101

Put a personal note here:

I urge you to repeal the medical marijuana law. This has turned into a circus and is a threat to our communities. We moved to Montana because we wanted to get away from this type of issue. I was in law enforcement in Texas for 24 years and saw the problems that drugs create. Please help us keep Montana, "The Last Best Place". Thank You

From:

First Name: Ginger

Last Name: Simmons

ggsimmons@usa.net

Phone w/ Area Code

406-656-3171

City

Billings

Zip Code

59106

Put a personal note here:

I am asking you to repeal the medical marijuana act, with House Bill 168.

From:

First Name: Nick

Last Name: Turner

nicksharonturner@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-431-5119

City

Helena

Zip Code

59602

Put a personal note here:

Please vote to repeal the medical marijuana program in Montana! Thank you

From:

First Name: Sharon

Last Name: Turner

nicksharonturner@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-431-9427

City

Helena

Zip Code

59602

Put a personal note here:

Please vote to repeal the existing medical marijuana program!

Thank you,

Sharon Turner

From:

First Name: Jeff

Last Name: Appelt

jappelt42@yahoo.com

City

Billings

Put a personal note here:

If this is considered a legalized drug for medical purposes it should be regulated through a pharmacy and not sold in fly by night operations trying to make a quick buck.

From:

First Name: Jeff

Last Name: Appelt

jappelt42@yahoo.com

City

Billings

Put a personal note here:

If this is considered a legalized drug for medical purposes it should be regulated through a pharmacy and not sold in fly by night operations trying to make a quick buck.

From:

First Name: Susan

Last Name: Laughlin

gregandsue@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code

406-697-4239

City

Billings

Zip Code

59106

Put a personal note here:

Please have courage and lead our nation by voting to repeal the medical marijuana act as it stands in Montana. Our children and communities need your help. Think of your own children and grandchildren when you vote - can you guarantee their safety with this law now? The voters of Montana did not expect or want what is now happening here when they approved this measure several years ago. Additionally, allowing a substance against federal law to be legalized here show Montana to have weak morals and ethics. Please vote to repeal this law! Thank you, Susan Laughlin

From:

First Name: Lorie

Last Name: Hughes

glsmahughes@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code

406-656-3552

City

Billings

Zip Code

59102

Put a personal note here:

Please repeal this. It has been GREATLY abused. Many unethical doctors are profitting for this and putting our community at risk. I heard that some high school parents are obtaining a medical marijuana permit for their children just in case they ever get caught with this drug.

This is unacceptable to me. The parents are definitely in the wrong, but the easy access makes this possible. I urge legislators to repeal the existing medical marijuana program in Montana.

From:

First Name: Patti

Last Name: Vierthaler

vier@bresnan.net

Phone w/ Area Code

406-259-4439

City

Billings

Zip Code

59105

Put a personal note here:

Please listen to your constituents and repeal our state's medical marijuana law. Marijuana has devastating effects on our community. I am a high school teacher and see first hand how it takes hold of our young people. Most move on to stronger and more dangerous drugs when marijuana doesn't give them the high they went looking for when they tried it for the first time. It's time to take a step as responsible adults and do the right thing by our children.

From:

First Name: kathy

Last Name: stanford

kstanford@bresnan.net

City

billings

Zip Code

59106

Put a personal note here:

I want 161 repealed. It is ridiculous how medical marijuana is being prescribed for every little ache and pain. The people using it are only supplementing their illegal use and then they get behind the wheel and drive. To use this to substance to anesthetize anything from a back injury to a sore toe is irresponsible. We are at the crossroad of an ethical slippery slope. The nation is watching Montana, let us set the tone with a hard stance and good values.

From:

First Name: Jean

Last Name: Kerr

jkerr@mt.gov

Phone w/ Area Code

406-628-1964

City

Laurel

Zip Code

59044

Put a personal note here:

I am a Judge. The law was sold to the public and has blown up to total abuse of marijuana. The negative impact it has made in my court has been huge...just took a plea agreement to amend a Narcotic DUI to Negligent Endangerment on a 17 year old youth. The deal was to allow him to be accepted into the Marines upon graduation this coming spring. The addiction rate for Marijuana in Laurel and all the crimes associated with it is on the increase.

VOTE TO REPEAL MEDICAL MARIJUANA !!!!!

Judge Jean M. Kerr

From:

First Name: Donna

Last Name: Harrell

dzharrell@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-208-3849

City

Shepherd

Zip Code

59079

Put a personal note here:

I do not agree with how the medical marijuana situation has turned out. Many of these folks have cards. These folks share their pot with their friends and kids. The joke in the medical field is , if you have a pain, get your pot card, it is easy. This is outrageous. I am a parent. I talk with kids all the time of being drug free. I have not tried pot, because I have had friends who were raped and other things due to drug involvement. I do not see any morals or values when it comes to this. We are not allowed to say God with the Pledge of Allegiance, but you can get a card for pot. What is this world coming too.

For God sake people, raise your kids with positive strength, communication, morals and values so we do not teach them to lean on drugs. I sometimes wonder what kind of chance our future holds, especially when it comes to leadership. Take 10 and think about what really matters.

From:

First Name: Karen

Last Name: Thompson

kj2thompson@msn.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-652-8942

City

Billings

Zip Code

59106

Put a personal note here:

Dear Legislator,

Over the last few years, it has been well documented that there is a link between smoking tobacco and lung cancer, but so far the jury still seems to be out on whether smoking marijuana, causes lung cancer as well. What we currently know is that many of the carcinogens present in tobacco smoke are also present in marijuana smoke.

If you will recall, many companies in the tobacco industry were ordered to pay huge sums of money to cancer victims and their families. The reasoning was that tobacco companies were considered to be "producers" of tobacco, which contained the carcinogens, and therefore they were held liable.

My point is that since researchers do not yet know the full effects of smoked marijuana on the human body, I think we need to take a step back and ask ourselves if we really want to legalize a substance (smoked form) that we don't fully quite understand. If researchers do find that smoked marijuana is carcinogenic, does this mean that medical marijuana "producers" will be held financially liable, just as tobacco "producers" were held financially liable? Will the State of Montana required "producers" to carry insurance to cover any potential lawsuits? Would the State of Montana be able to protect itself from any potential lawsuits?

The Montana voters should be commended for their compassion towards one another, but until the full effects of this particular form of marijuana (smoked) is better understood, I urge everyone to error on the side of caution.

Please repeal the Medical Marijuana Act and protect Montanans.

From:

First Name: Adam

Last Name: Burt

repsofchrist@yahoo.com

City

Billings

Zip Code

59102

Put a personal note here:

Marijuana hasn't and isn't helping our community.

From:

First Name: Jennifer

Last Name: Lambourne

jclambourne@hotmail.com

City

Billings

Zip Code

59106

Put a personal note here:

Have the courage to repeal! Protect all that you love about Billings by stopping this now. There are so many things wrong in the current plan. I have never understood how unqualified persons are allowed to dispense an illegal substance. Being compassionate and caring is not sufficient. A trained doctor has to go through more ropes to prescribe a pain reliever. Do not allow the current marijuana program to exist here. Lead the country in setting and expecting such a high standard.

From:

First Name: Graydon

Last Name: Pennell

graymcs@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-350-2808

City

Lewistown

Zip Code

59457

Put a personal note here:

Medical marijuana is a joke and needs to be repealed. It has been and always will be a drug to be used and abused by the masses. There are many other ways to deal with pain than marijuana. Can we bring back some common sense to Montana? The evidence of its abuse is undeniable and overwhelming.

From:

First Name: Angela

Last Name: Randak

ajrandak@yahoo.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-652-3769

City

Billings

Zip Code

59102

Put a personal note here:

I think it is appalling the number of medical marijuana shops that have opened in Billings. It makes our city look trashy. Furthermore, it is way too easy to get a medical marijuana card. My husband is a physician. He is dismayed by the number of young people-even teenagers- that he sees who have legal medical marijuana cards. Please repeal this law and start over!

From:

First Name: Vickie & Max

Last Name: Miller

mooselady7@gmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code

406-628-1560

City

Laurel

Zip Code

59044

Put a personal note here:

We are asking our legislature to repeal the current marijuana law as it is not what Montana voted for! It was poorly constructed in the first place and has led to all sorts of abuses. Sincerely ill people with serious pain issues may have some help from the drug but it is way out of control and way past that scenerio. Please vote to repeal!

Thanks for your time

First Name: Mariah
Last Name: Hinderager
myohmya@hotmail.com

Phone w/ Area Code
406-697-1339

City
Billings

Zip Code
59102

Put a personal note here:

I support a Medical Marijuana repeal! "Medical Marijuana" has only served to make drug dealing legal! People are getting "prescriptions" from "doctors" who aren't even medical professionals and have no qualifications of any kind. The active ingredient in Marijuana, THC, was already available to patients who have GENUINE medical issues from GENUINE doctors. All this Medical Marijuana program has done is made a street drug legal for anyone who so much as says they have a headache. If you take the time to look at the statistics of those who have obtained "mmj cards" they are not individuals who are terminally ill or elderly. Most are highschool and college aged and people who had smoked it illegally (as a "recreational drug") for years. It's ridiculous, and this drug should remain illicit. As law makers, you have the responsibility to keep our children and our citizens SAFE. I trust that you will do your job and support this repeal

ASAM Public Policy Statement on "Medical Marijuana"

Friday, 23 April 2010 19:42

~~The American Society of Addiction Medicine~~ (ASAM) has published the following Public Policy Statement on "Medical Marijuana".

(ASAM's White Paper on "Medical Marijuana" will be available shortly)

In the last twenty years, both the scientific community and the public have become interested in the therapeutic potential of cannabis and cannabinoids. Scientific interest has been based in large part on the discovery and elucidation of the endocannabinoid receptor system. Popular interest has focused on state initiatives and other legislation decriminalizing the use of smoked cannabis for personal medical use. Because of this legislation, herbal cannabis in various forms is now being distributed by dispensaries to large numbers of individuals with a wide variety of medical conditions. This cannabis is not, in most cases, standardized or quality-controlled; the dosage forms (smoked, vaporized, baked goods, teas, elixirs, etc.) do not provide a known and reproducible dose; and data on efficacy and adverse events are not being collected in a reliable manner.

Cannabinoids are insoluble in water and subject to degradation by temperature and light; thus, optimal delivery systems or dosage forms are difficult to design. As a result, research into their medical applications is technologically challenging and has lagged behind that of the opioids and other modern medications. With improvements in technology and the development of research tools, such as high affinity agonists and antagonists, preclinical research has flourished. At present, however, only a few properly controlled clinical studies, of adequate size and duration, have investigated the use of cannabis or cannabinoid products in specific therapeutic contexts.

The pace of such clinical research is increasing. As corporate sponsors successfully resolve the regulatory and technological challenges, new products will enter the market. These products will be accompanied by extensive quality, pharmacological, toxicity, safety/tolerability, and efficacy data that will allow physicians knowledgeably to prescribe them, thereby making them available to appropriate patients. Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) will reduce the likelihood of abuse and diversion by both patients and non-patients, including adolescents.

The FDA approval process ensures that a robust body of data accompanies a product when it becomes available to patients. The FDA has invited industry to develop botanically based products and has set forth the regulatory path that must be followed to ensure that such products meet the standards of modern medicine. It is feasible for cannabis-derived products to proceed down that path. Doing so will enable them to be recognized by the medical community as legitimate treatment options.

Under the current state distribution systems, physicians serve as the gatekeepers of patients' access to cannabis, yet they lack both information on the quality/composition of the cannabis materials and data on their efficacy/safety. When specific cannabis-derived or cannabinoid medications have passed through conventional regulatory approval processes, and their risk/benefit profile in a particular medical condition is known, physicians can be confident that they are meeting the standard of care when advising patients about potential treatment choices.

"Cognitive dissonance" is a term that aptly describes the current approach to "medical marijuana." Scientists recognize the public health harms of tobacco smoking and urge our young people to refrain from the practice, yet most cannabis consumers use smoking as their preferred delivery mechanism. The practice of medicine is increasingly evidence-based, yet some physicians are willing to consider "recommending" cannabis to their patients, despite the fact that they lack even the most rudimentary information about the material (composition, quality, and dose, and no controlled studies provide information on its benefit and safety of its use in chronic medical conditions). Pharmaceutical companies are responsible for the harms caused by contaminated or otherwise dangerous products and tobacco companies can be held accountable for harms caused by cigarettes, yet, dispensaries distribute cannabis products about which very little are known, including their source. Efforts are being made to stem the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, including FDA-mandated risk management plans required for prescription medications, yet cannabis distribution sites proliferate in many states, virtually without regulation.

In order to think clearly about "medical marijuana" one must distinguish first between 1) the therapeutic potentials of